



The Ripline

www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Union/BUHABS

Issue 4 2002/2003

Newsletter of the BRISTOL UNIVERSITY HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY

Happy New Year everyone, lets hope we get loads of good flying weather. As always, we will be signing up for flights on Thursday lunchtimes in the White Bear.

Since the New Year BUHABS has done three flights, two wonderful trips on the first weekend of the year from the Icicle Balloon meet and a flight on the first weekend of term from Bath. The spring term is usually a busy term for BUHABS, as the weather improves we hope to get lots of flights in.

Hugo and Ellie

Socials!

The Christmas social last term was a great fun night, although I think the least said about what I ended up wearing the better! I'm sure my friends on the committee will be trying to track down the pictures!

We will be planning a few social events this term, we haven't finalised them as yet, but there will be a pub crawl down Whiteladies Rd, and probably a curry night. The end of this term also sees the Annual General Meeting, of which more later. It is a long BUHABS tradition to have a meal after the AGM to celebrate the club's anniversary. BUHABS first flew in March 1986, making this March our 17th birthday. It won't be very long before all the new freshers we recruit will actually be younger than the club! We hope as many of you as possible will come to the AGM and anniversary meal! More details of all these events will follow later by e-mail.

Committee and AGM

At the AGM in early March, the committee for next year are elected. The BUHABS committee run the club from year to year and plan future strategy. Committee positions allow you to get really involved with the running of the club and are a fantastic way to get more involved in Ballooning. Committee members are involved in all sorts of activities such as recruiting new members, organising and chairing meetings, financial accounting, budgeting for the club running costs, organising sponsorship, writing newsletters and web pages, organising social events and representing the club's interests to the Union. Whatever your interests or skills there are lots of opportunities to get involved. We are always looking to recruit people onto the committee. Needless to say, you learn many transferable skills and experience in a University club, and this looks fantastic on a C.V. The Union also run some excellent training courses for committee members, so don't worry if you've not been involved with committees before. The website contains some information about the different committee positions, and there is a guide on the back page of this Ripline. If you would like more information about committee positions, then please e-mail me for more information.

Hugo

The Icicle - 5th January 2003

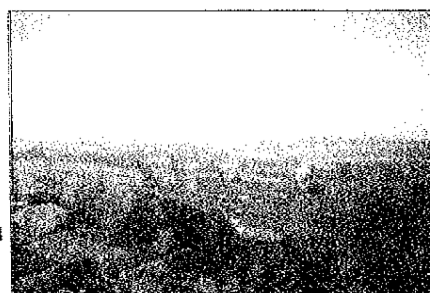
The Icicle is a ballooning event held at a farm in Wiltshire every January and this year (4th and 5th Jan) was the 31st time it was to happen!



It was very cold at 6:20 in the morning on the 5th January waiting for the BUHABS van to arrive! After it turned up we drove to Wiltshire, which took about an hour. There were around 20-30 balloons all laid out and ready to be inflated when we arrived and we waited while Lee and Ellie went to the briefing.

They came back and everyone started inflating their balloons while we started to set up ours. We were all set up and ready and we took off at 9:15am. We flew for 45 minutes over the misty ground, a couple of thousand feet below us and landed nice and gently in a field a couple of miles from the take off

site. I had to get out so we could push the balloon closer to the field gate, unfortunately I didn't keep my weight on and the balloon went up about 20 ft or so... and this was before breakfast!! We got everything packed away and went back to the launch site for refuelling. Despite being tempted by the bacon sandwiches we got everything back out again and started setting up for the second flight of the day. I've never done two flights in a row before so I was knackered by the time I had finished slipping and sliding about all over the place on the crown line! I was on



retrieve this time and we followed the balloon for what seemed like ages but it was a good chance for people to get photos. We arrived at the landing field just as Ellie was coming in to land. We pulled the balloon to the bottom of the field as close to the gate as possible so we didn't have to carry everything that little bit further when it was all packed away.

When everything was back in the van we went to the Swindon Hilton Hotel to what seemed like a ballooning market...there were stalls where you could buy almost anything to do with the sport! We had all worked up an appetite so Lee decided to take us all to a nice little family bar/restaurant -

Sally's Pussey!!! We all had a lovely Carvery dinner (at the mere cost of £8!) then all piled back into the BUHABS van to go home...after refuelling of course!

Phil Hooper

Morning Crew	Afternoon Crew
Air:	Air:
Lee Hooper	Lee Hooper
Ellie Fearon	Ellie Fearon
Phil Hooper	Nicola Hetherington
Kate Elliot	Matthew French
Matthew French	Ground:
Ground:	Simon, Josie, Daniel and Thomas Church
Simon Church	Kate Elliot
Nicola Hetherington	Phil Hooper



Flight Report: 11th January 2003

After the fantastic weather for the Sunday slots at the Icicle Balloon Meet, we were determined to get some flying done in Bristol too. As it happened, Saturday 11th January provided the perfect weather.

We arrived at the regular BUHABS launch site in Bath [the "railway field", see picture] to find that the temperature was below zero. Inspired by blue skies and the desire to get the burners lit, the balloon was soon rigged and ready for flight.



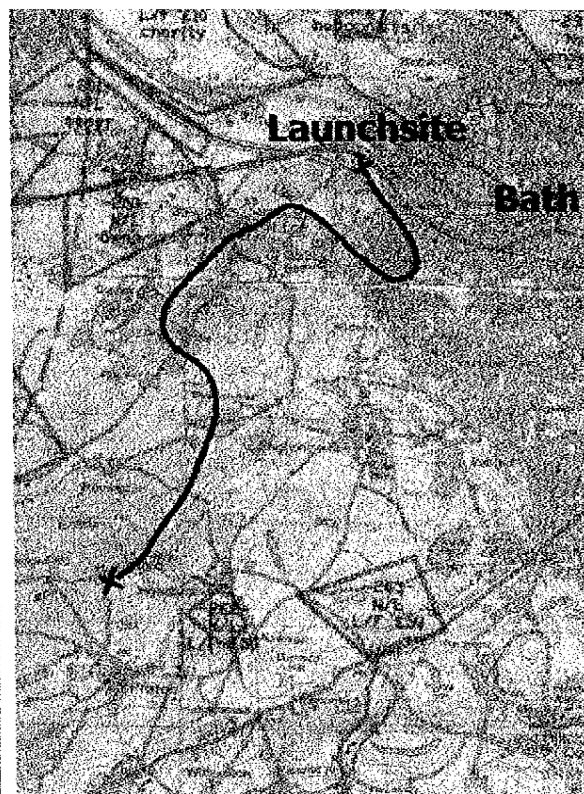
As we left the ground, we tracked slowly out over Twerton to the southeast.

Descending towards the fields at Twerton, our track changed as the light and variable winds brought us back across the front of the launch site. This gave us a chance to pass low over the campsite and brush through the tops of some trees before hugging the ground as we flew away from the launch site to the west.

As we climbed again our track took us south over Bath College and the countryside beyond. At this point the retrieve van got stuck on the side of an icy road – something we would not find out until later...

After a quick touchdown in a field to the south of the college we climbed again and continued the flight. Several fields were considered for a final landing but access was rutted and icy in most cases so we stayed in the air.

Eventually our track brought us overhead Priston Mill. Although tempted by landing in the courtyard, we decided against it and landed just the other side of the millstream. At this point my mobile rang and we were alerted to the plight of the retrieve crew.



With no way of helping them out of their slippery predicament, we used the time to fly the balloon on the drop-line over the hedge to the field next to the mill and up the hill to the gate.

After deflating and packing the balloon away, my phone rang again. This time it was good news. A kind farmer had stopped and towed the van out of the hedge with his tractor. He was duly rewarded a BUHABS mug (a gift usually reserved for the farmer whose field you land in) and the retrieve crew was soon at the gate to collect five frozen balloonists and one balloon from the field.

After a quick visit to the landowner we all thawed-out with dinner at the Globe Inn near Bath, and then it was back to Bristol to refuel.

With any luck there will be more superb winter flying to be had this term (although we can't promise that the retrieve will always be this eventful).

Keep signing up, and we'll see you on a launch site soon.

Soft Landings,

Tim.

Up in the air:

Tim Dudman, Simon Jenkins, Rachel Harrington, John Dawson & Hannah Steer.

Down on the ground:

Josie Church, Ellie Fearon & Jay Button.

Committee: A Quick Guide to what the Various Positions involve!

PRESIDENT

The President is responsible for chairing meetings and maintaining the overall direction of the club. The President also represents the society to the Union and is responsible for ensuring the society complies with Union regulations on Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities. The President must be a member of the Union.

TREASURER

The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring the club has sufficient money in our accounts to fund bills such as insurance and van expenses. The Treasurer also has to keep the accounts in good order, as the Union can ask to inspect them at any time. This post is not open to anyone in their final year, and must be held by a member of the Union.

SECRETARY

The Secretary takes minutes, writes the agendas for committee meetings and generally acts as an assistant to the other committee members when required. Former Secretaries such as Tim and Paul argue the Secretary is the real power behind the BUHABS!

TRANSPORT OFFICER

Maintains the van in working order and arranges the repairs, insurance, road tax and so on. This post is usually held by a more experienced member of the committee. The transport officer must be over 21 and be an experienced driver.

SENIOR AND ACTIVE PILOTS

The active pilots are responsible for many of the operational issues such as ensuring our maps and equipment are up to date. The Senior Pilot is responsible for co-ordinating balloon maintenance and training, and has absolute authority over operational issues.

WEBSITE EDITOR and RIPLINE EDITOR

Maintains the Website. Many people find out about BUHABS via our website, so it is important we keep the pages up to date and interesting. The Ripline Newsletter is a great way to keep up to date with what's happening in BUHABS! All past Riplines are on the Website!

SOCIAL SECRETARY

Organises social events.

We sometimes appoint other members to the committee depending on their skills and what is needed at the time e.g. non-portfolio officers, membership secretary, balloon maintenance officer etc.